

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS STATE 015739

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:0ENC, SG

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: DEVELOPMENT OF SIGNIFICANT

--- AGRIBUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

1. MEPD APPRECIATES AND EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN EMBASSY VIEWS BROUGHT BACK BY MEPD PROJECT OFFICER EHGLESON REGARDING POTENTIAL TASK FORCE VISIT BY GROUP OF U.S. AGRIBUSINESS FIRMS. THIS REPORT COMBINED WITH PREVIOUS EMBASSY REPORTING (SUCH AS POULTRY PROJECT DAKAR) HAS GENERATED INTEREST AMONG AGRIBUSINESS FIRMS IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT PROJECTS WHICH MAY BE EXPECTED TO BE REALIZED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

2. AS MEPD ENVISIONS IT, A TASK FORCE COULD INCLUDE PLANNERS, SOILS AND IRRIGATION ENGINEERS, EXPERTS IN THE FIELDS OF ROOT AND TREE CROPS, DAIRY, LIVESTOCK, POULTRY (IF THERE IS STILL A NEED), FOOD PROCESSING PLANTS ENGINEERS, MARKETERS, AND EVEN A FIRM WHICH SPECIALIZES IN TRAINING LOCAL PERSONNEL TO RUN THE PROJECT WHEN THE U.S. ENGINEERS RETURN HOME. TASK FORCE COULD BE STRUCTURED

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TO INCLUDE THOSE FIRMS WHICH DESIRE AN EQUITY POSITION OR

TO BE STRICTLY TURNKEY COMPANIES OR A MIXTURE BASED ON THE TYPE OF PROJECT IDENTIFIED BY EMBASSY. EMBASSY MAY BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT A SIMILAR GROUP ORGANIZED BY MEPD PRESENTED TALKS AND SHOWED FILMS ON THE STATE OF THE ART OF U.S. SUGAR ENGINEERING TO A GROUP OF SUGAR MILL OPERATORS AND ENGINEERS IN INDONESIA. IF THIS TYPE APPROACH WOULD BE DESIRABLE, PLEASE INDICATE APPROPRIATE AREAS. ABOVE ALL PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT WHAT WE PROPOSE IS AN ENGINEERING, NOT A MACHINERY, TASK FORCE, ALTHOUGH OF COURSE U.S. EXCELLENCE IN EQUIPMENT PLAYS A LARGE ROLE IN THE EFFICIENCY OF OUR ENGINEERING EFFORTS.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY IDENTIFY SPECIFIC OPPORTUNITIES COMPLETE WITH CURRENT REPORT AS TO SIZE, TIMING, FINANCING NECESSARY ETC. ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENT ON APPROPRIATE TIMING FOR VISIT. MEPD CONSIDERING APRIL, IS MAY BETTER? THIS QUESTION ASSUMES,

OF COURSE, THAT OPPORTUNITIES DO EXIST WHICH WOULD FORM THE BASIS OF A FRUITFUL VISIT. IF THIS IS INCORRECT, WE WOULD WANT THE EMBASSY TO BE FRANK IN SO STATING.

4. YOUR ASSISTANCE MOST APPRECIATED. SISCO

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